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REMARKS

A response to the most recent office action mailed November 12, 2004 was due on February 12, 2005. This response is being filed with a request for a two month extension of time and appropriate fee. Thus a response is due on April 12, 2005. This response is being filed on April 12, 2005. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Applicants respectfully request that the response submitted herewith be made of record in the present application. No fees are due and no extension of time is required. If applicant is incorrect in either belief, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any deficiency to account number 12-0690 and to consider this as a request for the required time deficiency.

Claim Status

Claims 1-19 were originally filed in this application. Claims 2-4, 7, 11 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Pending claims are 1, 5-6, 8-10, 12-15, 17-19. Claims 8, 12 and 17 have been made independent to incorporate limitations into one claim in accordance with the Examiner's determination of allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2-4 therein. Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 and 7 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 11 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 16 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. No new matter has been added by these amendments and entry is respectfully requested.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Second submission)

Submitted herewith is an information disclosure statement. This is a RESUBMISSION of an information disclosure statement originally filed on June 23, 2004. Accompanying the replacement information disclosure statement are the following documents:

- 1) Transmittal form and certificate of mailing dated June 23, 2004
- 2) Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)
- 3) IDS- 1 sheet
- 4) Seven references

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references. It is believed that no fee is due since the evidence shows that the IDS was timely submitted in accordance with US PTO rules.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant's gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. As such, the claims, *as amended* should currently be in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,602,753. This rejection is believed overcome by applicant's current amendment in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and indication of allowable subject matter. Thus it is believed that the claims, *as amended*

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are not anticipated over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,674,098. This rejection is believed overcome by applicant's current amendment in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and indication of allowable subject matter. Thus it is believed that the claims, *as amended* are not anticipated over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by WO 01/08229. This rejection is believed overcome by applicant's current amendment in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and indication of allowable subject matter. Thus it is believed that the claims, *as amended* are not anticipated over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 9-10, 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,140,669. This rejection is believed overcome by applicant's current amendment in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and indication of allowable subject matter. Thus it is believed that the claims, *as amended* are not anticipated over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,976,412. This rejection is believed overcome by applicant's current amendment in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and indication of allowable subject matter. Thus it is believed that the claims, *as amended*

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are not anticipated over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10, 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,027,329. This rejection is believed overcome by applicant's current amendment in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and indication of allowable subject matter. Thus it is believed that the claims, *as amended* are not anticipated over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §10(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,027,329 or 5,976,412. This rejection is believed overcome by applicant's current amendment in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and indication of allowable subject matter. Thus it is believed that the claims, *as amended* are not anticipated over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having overcome all rejections, Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application. If a telephone conversation will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is kindly invited to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

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All fees believed due have been submitted. If Applicant is wrong in this assumption, the PTO is authorized to charge any deficiency to Applicant's account number 120690. The PTO is not authorized to charge the issue fee to this account.

Respectfully Submitted,
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